

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 11, line 10 as follows:

The method of informing or notifying each switching node a failed span is an optical fiber ring can depend on the type of optical fiber ring. If the optical fiber rings is a SONET ("Synchronous Optical Network") ring or a SDH ("Synchronous ~~Data Handling~~ Digital Hierarchy") ring, a K-byte in the SONET/SDH frame can be used. CSDP uses, for example, a DCC or an overhead channel for this purpose. Alternatively, the channel assignment data may be propagated to each switching node on the optical fiber network using an out-of-band protocol, service channel or overlay IP network.